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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/628,190	07/28/2000	Yasuhide Matsumoto	1405.1023/JDH	2686
21171	7590	10/05/2005	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			JACOBS, LASHONDA T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2157	

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/628,190

Applicant(s)

MATSUMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

LaShonda T. Jacobs

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on September 1, 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendment*

This Office Action in response to Applicants' RCE filed on September 1, 2005. Claims 1, 2 and 7-10 have been amended. Claims 1-10 are presented for further examination.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Christofferson et al (hereinafter, "Christofferson", U.S. Pat. No. 6,807,563).

As per claim 1, Christofferson discloses a profile creation method for use in a conversation system having a plurality of terminal devices that can exchange messages among each other, the plurality of terminal devices being connected to a network and sharing one of a plurality of virtual conversation spaces formed on the network, said method comprising steps of:

- providing predetermined keywords and predetermined categories such that the keywords and categories are correlated to each other (col. 6, lines 7-19, col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39);

- monitoring whether a message sent to a virtual space contains at least one of the keywords (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39);
- identifying a category that corresponds to a keyword if the message sent to the virtual space contains the keyword, according to the monitoring (col. 9, lines 18-39); and
- storing the identified category such that the category is correlated to a user who sent the message to the virtual space (col. 9, lines 18-39).

As per claim 2, Christofferson discloses a profile creation system for use in a conversation system having a plurality of terminal devices that can exchange messages among each other, the plurality of terminal devices being connected to a network and sharing one of a plurality of virtual conversation spaces formed on the network, said profile creation system comprising:

- a category table in which predetermined keywords and predetermined categories are stored such that the keywords and categories are correlated to each other (col. 9, lines 18-39);
- a user table that stores users, predetermined keywords sent by the user via messages, and the categories, such that the users, keywords, and categories are correlated to one another (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39); and
- administration means for monitoring in the conversation system a message sent to a conversation space, determining based on said category table a category that corresponds to the keyword if the message contains a keyword, and writing in said user table a sender of the message, the keyword in the message according to the monitoring, and the determined category (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39).

As per claim 3, Christofferson discloses the profile creation system as set forth in claim 2,

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- wherein said user table stores valid period and time at which the keyword was sent, in addition to the users, the keywords, and the categories (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39);
- said administration means further obtains from the conversation system the time at which the message containing the keyword was sent (col. 6, lines 7-19); and
- said administration means writing in said user table the time of the message and the valid period of the message, in addition to the keyword sender, the keyword and the category, and deleting an entry whose valid period since the time of message has expired (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39).

As per claim 4, Christofferson discloses the profile creation system as set forth in claim 2,

- wherein said user table stores the users, the keywords, the categories and message senders whose messages are related to the keywords (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39); and
- said administration means creates a conversation log in the conversation space, obtains from the conversation log and the conversation system the senders of messages that were sent before and/or after the message containing the keyword was sent, and writes in said user table the senders as related users, such that the related users are correlated with the keywords (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39).

As per claim 5, Christofferson discloses the profile creation system as set forth in claim 2,

- wherein said user table stores the users, the keywords, the categories and rating data that indicates harmfulness for each user (col. 6, lines 7-19); and

- said administration means updates the rating data of a user when a predetermined harmful keyword is sent (col. 6, lines 7-19).

As per claim 6, Christofferson discloses the profile creation system as set forth in claim 2,

- wherein the conversation system processes messages exchanged by the conversation devices based on users' categories stored in said user table (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39).

As per claim 7, Christofferson discloses a computer-readable recording media having a profile creation program for use in a conversation system having a plurality of terminal devices that can exchange messages among each other, the plurality of terminal devices being connected to a network and sharing one of a plurality of virtual conversation spaces formed on the network, said profile creation program executing a process comprising:

A: storing predetermined keywords and predetermined categories such that the keywords and categories are correlated to each other (col. 6, lines 7-19, col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39);

B: monitoring in the conversation system a message sent to a virtual conversation space (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39);

C: determining based on the category table a category that corresponds to a keyword if the message contains the keyword, according to the monitoring (col. 9, lines 1-39); and

D: storing a sender of the message, the keyword in the message, and the determined category, such that the sender, keyword, and category are correlated to one another (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39).

As per claim 8, Christofferson discloses a profile creation method for use in a conversation system having a plurality of terminal devices that can exchange messages among each other, the plurality of terminal devices being connected to a network and sharing one of a plurality of virtual conversation spaces formed on the network, said method utilizing a category table that can be referred to via the network, predetermined keywords and predetermined categories being correlated to each other in the category table, said method comprising:

- identifying based on the category table a category that corresponds to a keyword if the message sent to the virtual space contains the keyword (col. 9, lines 18-39)
- monitoring whether a message sent to a virtual conversation space contains at least one of the keywords, according to the monitoring (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39); and
- storing the identified category such that the category is correlated to a user who sent the message to the virtual space (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39).

As per claim 9, Christofferson discloses a profile creation system for use in a conversation system having a plurality of terminal devices that can exchange messages among each other, the plurality of terminal devices being connected to a network and sharing one of a plurality of virtual conversation spaces formed on the network, said profile creation system utilizing a category table that can be referred to via the network, predetermined keywords and predetermined categories being correlated to each other in the category table, said profile creation system comprising:

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- a user table storing users, predetermined keywords spoken by the user, and the categories, such that the users, keywords, and the categories are correlated to one another (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39); and
- administration means for monitoring in the conversation system a message to be sent to a virtual conversation space, determining based on the category table whether or not the message contains one of the keywords, determining based on the category table category that corresponds to the keyword if the message contains a keyword, according to the monitoring and writing in said user table a sender, the keyword of the message, the keyword of the message and the determined category (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39).

As per claim **10**, Christofferson discloses a computer-readable recording media having a profile creation program for use in a conversation system having a plurality of terminal devices that can exchange messages among each other, the plurality of terminal devices being connected to a network and sharing one of a plurality of virtual conversation spaces formed on the network, said profile creation program utilizing a category table that can be referenced via the network, predetermined keywords and predetermined categories being correlated to each other in the category table, said profile creation program executing a process comprising:

A: monitoring in the conversation system a message sent to a virtual conversation space (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39);

B: determining based on the category table whether the message contains one of the keywords (col. 9, lines 1-39);



C: determining based on the category table a category that corresponds to the keyword if the message contains the keyword (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39); and

D: storing a sender of the message, the keyword in the message, and the determined category, such that the sender, the keyword, and the category are correlated to one another (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39).

### *Response to Arguments*

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### *Conclusion*

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,606,644 to Ford et al

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LaShonda T. Jacobs whose telephone number is 571-272-4004.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M..


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LaShonda T Jacobs  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2157

ltj  
September 26, 2005

  
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